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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 29 November 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Yesterday marked yet another serious escalation in acts of terrorism targeting innocent civilians.

A suicide bomb attack outside the beachfront paradise Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya, frequented by Israeli tourists, claimed 16 lives and wounded 80 people. Of the dead, 13 were Kenyan nationals and 3 were Israeli citizens, including two brothers, Noy and Dvir Anter, aged 12 and 14. The huge bomb shattered windows and masonry in the hotel and caused a large fire on the premises. A previously unknown organization, "the Army of Palestine", claimed responsibility for this gruesome act of terror in a statement released from Beirut on Hezbollah television channel, but at the time of writing it remains unclear which terrorist organizations were behind the attack, though evidence suggests possible al-Qa'idah involvement.

The bombing came only minutes after an attempt to target, with two shoulder-launched missiles, an Israeli passenger plane carrying 261 passengers and 10 crew members departing from Mombasa. The missiles streaked passed the plane, narrowly missing it, thus averting what would have been a horrific catastrophe.

Also yesterday, 6 Israelis were killed and more than 40 were wounded when Palestinian gunmen from Chairman Arafat's own Fatah al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade detonated grenades and fired indiscriminately from automatic weapons at people waiting to vote at a polling station in Beit Shean, in the north of Israel. This cold-blooded murder of innocent civilians by terrorists loyal to Chairman Arafat seems not only to have been designed to escalate the ongoing Palestinian terrorist campaign but to interfere, through violence and terror, in the Israeli democratic process.

These three heinous terrorist acts, which deliberately targeted civilians, highlight the need for the international community to unite and be uncompromising in its battle against international terrorism and those rogue regimes that support,

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glorify and finance it. They emphasize the fact that terrorist groups operate as a network, and that support or toleration for the murderous agenda of any terrorist organization bolsters and empowers other organizations in the network. For the struggle against terrorism to be successful, the international community must be consistent in its condemnation of such acts as violations of the basic tenets of international law and the very sanctity of human life. The international community must hold accountable and fight against all those who engage in or support the inhuman strategy of murdering innocents in the hope of advancing a cause if we are to bring an end to this cult of glorifying death and killing around the globe.

Israel will work individually, with its allies and with the international community as a whole to ensure that its citizens are protected in accordance with its right and duty to self-defence and that the perpetrators of such atrocities and their supporters are brought to justice.

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism that began in September 2000.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 160, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/57/633

General Assembly

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2 December 2002

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item134
Financing of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone

Financing arrangements for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the note by the Secretary-General on the financial arrangements for the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 (A/57/619). During its consideration of the note, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information.

2. As indicated in paragraph 1 of the Secretary-General's note, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/251 B of 27 June 2002, the question of the apportionment of the balance of the appropriations for UNAMSIL in the amount of $167,369,100 was left to be considered in connection with possible adjustments to the Mission's military and civilian components.

3. As indicated in paragraph 3 of the note by the Secretary-General, based on Security Council resolution 1436 (2002) of 24 September 2002 and the current status of expenditures for UNAMSIL, expenditures for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 are estimated at $602,912,100 and the related staff assessment income at $6,293,700. In paragraph 4 of his note, the Secretary-General requested that the amount of $100,804,800 be apportioned among Member States for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003. The Advisory Committee ascertained that this amount was arrived at by deducting the unutilized balance of $66,564,300 gross for the period from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2003 from the $167,369,100 balance left to be assessed.

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4. The Advisory Committee points out that a brief note such as that contained in A/57/619 is not sufficient to justify an assessment of more than $100 million. The Committee requested detailed information on financial performance and expenditures, but in the short time available it was not possible to provide material that was of use to the Committee. The Committee stresses that future submissions must be accompanied with full supporting detail and justification. Under the circumstances, the Advisory Committee recommends an assessment of $90 million.

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Credentials of representatives to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly

Report of the Credentials Committee

Chairman: Mr. Jean **de Ruyt** (Belgium)

1. At its 1st plenary meeting, on 10 September 2002, the General Assembly, in accordance with rule 28 of its rules of procedure, appointed a Credentials Committee for its fifty-seventh session consisting of the following Member States: Argentina, Barbados, Belgium, China, Mali, Namibia, Papua New Guinea, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

2. The Credentials Committee held its meeting on 2 December 2002.

3. Mr. Jean de Ruyt (Belgium) was unanimously elected Chairman.

4. The Committee had before it a memorandum by the Secretary-General, dated 27 November 2002, concerning the credentials of representatives of Member States to the fifty-seventh regular session of the General Assembly. The Legal Counsel made a statement updating the information contained in the memorandum of the Secretary-General.

5 As indicated in paragraph 1 of the memorandum of the Secretary-General as updated by the Legal Counsel, formal credentials in the form required by rule 27 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly have been submitted by the following 139 Member States: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia,

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Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

6. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the Secretary-General's memorandum, information concerning the appointment of their representatives to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly have been communicated to the Secretary-General by means of a facsimile communication from the Head of State or Government or Minister for Foreign Affairs or by means of a letter or note verbale from the Permanent Mission concerned by the following 52 Member States: Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cape Verde, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, India, Iraq, Ireland, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Liberia, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Niger, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Somalia, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Vanuatu, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

7. The Chairman then proposed the following draft resolution for adoption by the Committee:

> "*The Credentials Committee*,
>
> "*Having examined* the credentials of the representatives to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly of the Member States referred to in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the report of the Credentials Committee,[1]
>
> "*Accepts* the credentials of the representatives of the Member States concerned."

[1] A/57/634.

8. The draft resolution proposed by the Chairman was adopted without a vote.

9. The Chairman then proposed that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft resolution (see para. 11 below). The proposal was adopted without a vote.

10. In the light of the foregoing, the present report is submitted to the General Assembly.

Recommendation of the Credentials Committee

11. The Credentials Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Credentials of representatives to the fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the Credentials Committee and the recommendation contained therein,[1]

Approves the report of the Credentials Committee.

[1] A/57/634, para. 11.